

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

161. (currently amended) A composition for use in adhesion or bonding comprising one or more ionomers ~~a susceptor, or blend of susceptors~~, present in a concentration ranging from ~~about~~ 10 to 70 weight percent; and a tackifier, or blend of tackifiers, present in a concentration ranging from about 1 to 25 ~~to 35~~ weight percent; and a polar carrier present in a concentration ranging from ~~about~~ 10 to 30 weight percent wherein said components are blended with one another and form a mixture, and wherein said one or more ionomers ~~susceptor~~ is present in an amount effective to allow said composition to be heated by radio frequency energy.

162. (currently amended) The composition of claim 161, wherein said one or more ionomers ~~susceptor~~ is present in a concentration of about 60 weight percent.

163. (previously presented) The composition of claim 161, wherein said tackifier is present in a concentration of about 25 weight percent.

164. (previously presented) The composition of claim 161, wherein said polar carrier is present in a concentration of about 13 weight percent.

165. (cancelled)

166. (currently amended) The composition of claim ~~161~~ 165, wherein said one or more ionomers ~~ionomeric polymer~~ is a branched sulfopolyester, copolymer or salt thereof.

167. (currently amended) The composition of claim 166, wherein said polar carrier is glycerin, said tackifier, or blend thereof is selected from the group consisting of

- (a) a hydrocarbon resin; and
- (b) a hydrogenated resin;

and said sulfopolyester, copolymer or salt thereof is selected from the group consisting of

(i) a branched sulfopolyester copolymer of glycols, difunctional acids and randomly distributed 5-sodiosulfoisophthalate groups incorporated into the polymer backbone characterized as having a melt viscosity value of about 3000-6000 cP (mPa·s) at 177 °C, a ring and ball softening point (ASTM E 28) value of 80-90 °C, a penetration hardness (ASTM D 5) value of 30 dmm, a glass transition temperature (T_g, ASTM D 3418) value of -5 °C, an elongation value of 1660%, and a hydroxyl number of 28 (AQ1045);

(ii) a branched sulfopolyester copolymer of glycols, difunctional acids and randomly distributed 5-sodiosulfoisophthalate groups incorporated into the polymer backbone characterized as having a melt viscosity value of 28,000-45,000 cP (mPa·s) at 177 °C, a ring and ball softening point (ASTM E 28) value of 100-110 °C, a penetration hardness (ASTM D 5) value of 14 dmm, a glass transition temperature (T_g, ASTM D 3418) value of -2 °C, a tensile strength (ASTM D 412) value of 0.27 mPa, an elongation value of 1600%, and a hydroxy number of 28 (AQ1350);

(iii) a branched sulfopolyester copolymer of glycols, difunctional acids and randomly distributed 5-sodiosulfoisophthalate groups incorporated into the polymer backbone characterized as having a melt viscosity value of 80,000-110,000 cP (mPa·s) at 177 °C, a ring

and ball softening point (ASTM E 28) value of 110-120 °C, a penetration hardness (ASTM D 5) value of 8 dmm, a glass transition temperature (T_g, ASTM D 3418) value of 3 °C, a tensile strength (ASTM D 412) value of 0.38 mPa, an elongation value of 1400%, and a hydroxy number of 28 (AQ1950); and

(iv) a branched sulfopolyester copolymer of glycols, difunctional acids and randomly distributed 5-sodiosulfoisophthalate groups incorporated into the polymer backbone characterized as having a melt viscosity value of 300,000-500,000 cP (mPa·s) at 177 °C, a ring and ball softening point (ASTM E28) value of 125-140 °C, a penetration hardness (ASTM D 5) value of 7 dmm, a glass transition temperature (T_g, ASTM D 3418) value of 7 °C, a tensile strength (ASTM D 412) of 0.61 mPa, an elongation value of 1200%, and a hydroxyl number value of 28 (AQ14000).

168. (previously presented) The composition of claim 167, further comprising one or more additives, wherein said additives are selected from the group consisting of tackifiers, flow aids, heat and UV stabilizers, coupling agents, surfactants, nonvolatile solvents, plasticizers, waxes and other organic compounds.

169. (currently amended) A composition for use in adhesion or bonding comprising one or more ionomers ~~a susceptor, or blend of susceptors~~, present in a concentration ranging from ~~about~~ 40 to 70 weight percent; a tackifier, present in a concentration ranging from about 1 to 25 weight percent; and a polar carrier present in a concentration ranging from about 20 to 30 weight percent wherein said components are blended with one another and form a mixture, and wherein said one or more ionomers ~~susceptor~~ is present in an amount effective to allow said composition to be heated by radio frequency energy.

170. (previously presented) The composition of claim 169, wherein said polar carrier is present in a concentration of about 25 weight percent.

171. (cancelled)

172. (currently amended) The composition of claim ~~169~~ 171, wherein said one or more ionomers ~~ionomeric polymer~~ is an ethylene acrylic acid polymer, copolymer or salt thereof.

173. (previously presented) The composition of claim 172, wherein said polar carrier is glycerin and said tackifier is a hydrogenated resin.

174. (previously presented) The composition of claim 173, further comprising one or more additives, wherein said additives are selected from the group consisting of tackifiers, flow aids, heat and UV stabilizers, coupling agents, surfactants, nonvolatile solvents, plasticizers, waxes and other organic compounds.

175. (currently amended) A composition for use in adhesion or bonding comprising one or more ionomers ~~a susceptor~~, present in a concentration ranging from ~~about~~ 80 to 90 weight percent; and a polar carrier present in a concentration ranging from ~~about 10~~ 13 to 15 weight percent wherein said components are blended with one another and form a mixture, and wherein said one or more ionomers ~~susceptor~~ is present in an amount effective to allow said composition to be heated by radio frequency energy.

176. (currently amended) The composition of claim 175, wherein said one or more ionomers ~~suseepter~~ is present in a concentration of about 90 weight percent.

177. (currently amended) The composition of claim 175, wherein said polar carrier is present in a concentration of ~~about 10~~ 13 weight percent.

178. (currently amended) The composition of claim 175, wherein said one or more ionomers ~~suseepter~~ comprises a water dispersion of an ionomeric polymer.

179. (previously presented) The composition of claim 178, wherein said ionomeric polymer is a vinyl acetate-acrylic acid copolymer or salt thereof, and wherein said polar carrier is a benzoate plastizicer (Benzoflex 9-88).

180. (previously presented) The composition of claim 179, further comprising one or more additives, wherein said additives are selected from the group consisting of tackifiers, flow aids, heat and UV stabilizers, coupling agents, surfactants, nonvolatile solvents, plasticizers, waxes and other organic compounds.

181. (new) The composition of claim 161, wherein said one or more ionomers is an ethylene acrylic acid polymer, copolymer or salt thereof.

182. (new) The composition of claim 169, wherein said one or more ionomers is a branched sulfopolyester, copolymer or salt thereof.